



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: 406-257-0349  
Ref:DV105-01  
March 21, 2001

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office – Rich Clough  
Fisheries Division – Karen Zackheim  
Lands – Darlene Edge, Deb Dils  
P-R, D-J – Bobbi Keeler

Parks Division – Jeff Erickson, Allan Kuser  
Legal Unit  
Design & Construction – Dick Mayer

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201

Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624

Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923

Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103

Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, 59715

Rep. Verdell Jackson, 555 Wagner Lane, Kalispell, 59901-8079

Sen. Bob DePratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, 59937-1217

Rep. Bob Raney, 212 S. 6<sup>th</sup>, Livingston, 59047

Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S Main Street, Kalispell, 59901

Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901

Flathead Wildlife, Inc., PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903

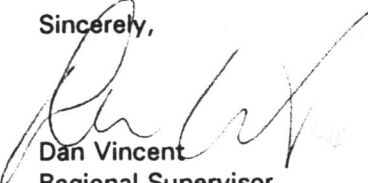
Dave Reese, Daily Inter Lake, Box 7610, Kalispell, 59901

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for **Little McGregor Lake**. The project proposes capital development of a fishing access site.

Questions and comments will be accepted until April 20, 2001. Please direct your questions or comments to Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager, FWP, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, or e-mail to [mawatkins@state.mt.us](mailto:mawatkins@state.mt.us). Thank you.

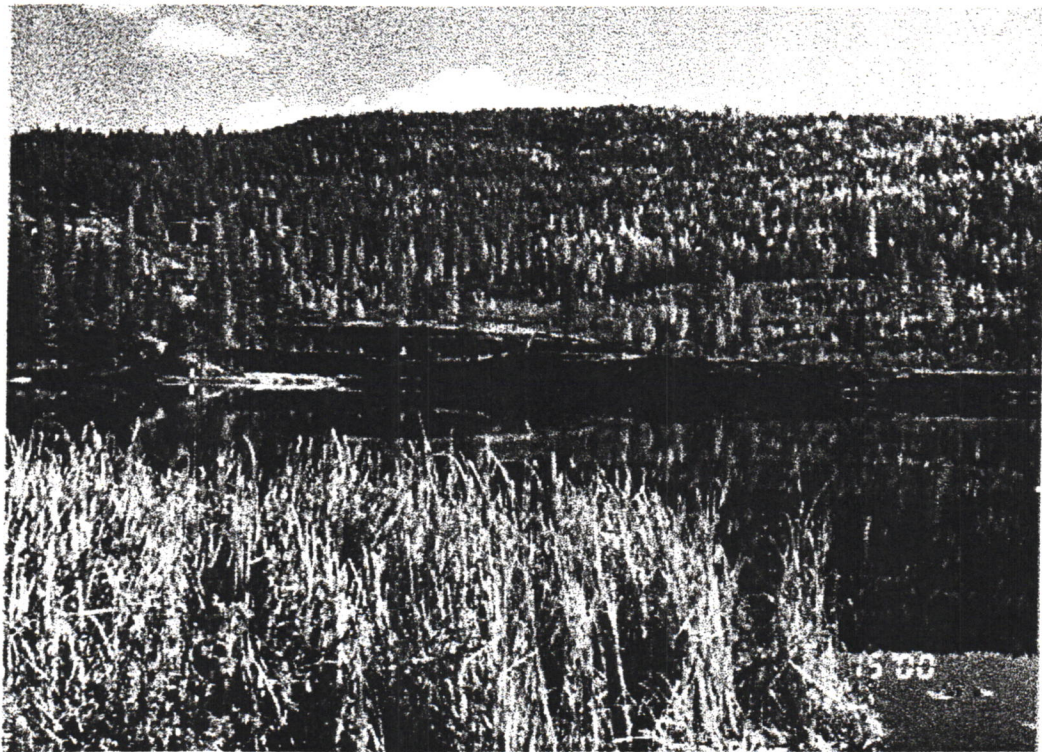
Sincerely,



Dan Vincent  
Regional Supervisor

DV/nli  
Enclosure

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR  
IMPROVEMENT S AT LITTLE  
McGREGOR LAKE**



Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
490 North Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **PAGE**

Proposed Action Description	1
Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action	2
Agencies With Jurisdiction and Those Consulted	4
Environmental Review	6-15
Alternatives Considered	16
Narrative Evaluation and Comments	17

## **APPENDIX**

- A Area Map
- B Little McGregor Lake Area
- C Management Plan Goal
- D 1 & D 2 Entrance Road and Site Plan
- E Cultural Resources Inventory Report



# DRAFT

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action:** Capital Development of Fishing Access Site.
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, (406) 751-4573, e-mail: mawatkins@state.mt.us.
3. **Name of Project:** Little McGregor Lake.
4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency):**
5. **If Applicable:**  
  
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: April 2001.  
Estimated Completion Date: December 2001  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 85 %
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township):** Flathead County, NW 1/4 of Sec. 4, T. 26 N., R. 25 W. (Appendix A).
7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) Developed: residential.....__ acres industrial.....__ acres	(d) Floodplain..... __ acres
(B) Open Space/Woodlands: Recreation..... <u>8</u> acre	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland..... __ acres dry cropland..... __ acres forestry ..... __ acres rangeland..... __ acres other..... __ acres
(C) Wetlands/Riparian: Areas..... <u>1</u> acres	
8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**



**9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

Little McGregor, one of the lakes in Thompson Chain of Lakes (TCL), is located approximately 34 miles west of Kalispell just north of McGregor Lake and US Highway 2, a major east-west highway (Appendix A). Little McGregor Lake, with a total of 36 acres, is included in the TCL Management Plan and is designated as a no-wake lake.

When the area was inventoried in 1991, access to Little McGregor was very difficult due to the high water table and the resulting road rutting. Access was by 4-wheel-drive vehicles and only during the dry season. Without vehicle access and the use of boats, fishing is nearly impossible due to the wide band of cattails along the shoreline. (See photo on page 3.)

The entire shoreline is state-owned, but on the west side of the lake where the major use is, state-owned land consists of a very narrow strip hardly adequate for public use.



*Little McGregor Lake access site. Roads are deeply rutted due to the high water table. Photo by Worthington.*

In November of 1993, after an extended public comment period, a Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was completed for the TCL. In that document the following management direction evolved:

1. The TCL property will be managed as a Fishing Access Site, with traditional, dispersed recreational use.
2. Protection of resources such as wildlife, fisheries, vegetation, historical and archeological, and water quality will be given priority.



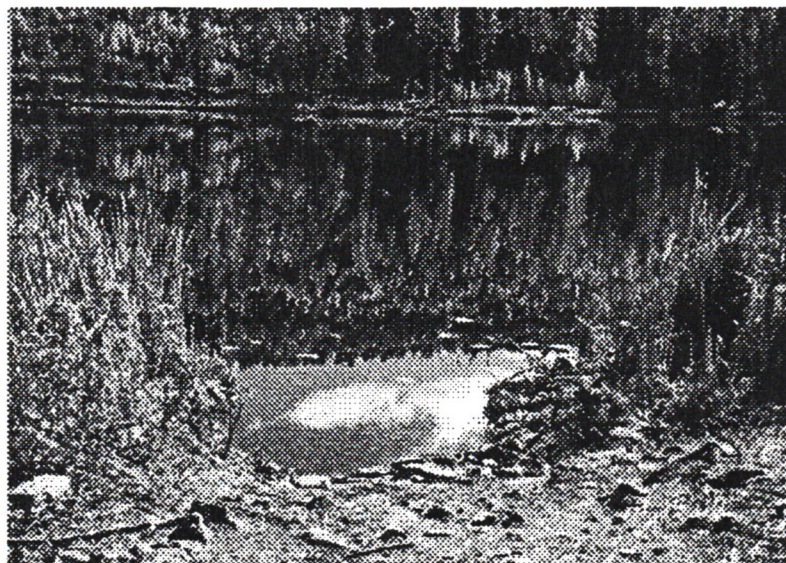
3. An inventory and site-specific plans for TCL would be completed and public comment sought on the plans. Facilities that could be considered would include boat ramps, toilets, fences, road repair, parking, access for the disabled, fire rings and signs, and redesign of sites or a combination of sites to protect the resource and improve public recreational use.

After adoption of the Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, FWP, a private consultant, and a group of individuals representing various interests in the TCL, formed a recreational subcommittee to the TCL Oversight Committee. The subcommittee recommended that management be directed toward leaving conditions as "they currently exist," or combining or expanding some sites to better suit recreational needs, a primary goal in the TCL Management Plan (Appendix C).

As the result of this 1996 Management Plan, the decision for Site No. 46 at Little McGregor Lake (Appendix C) is to:

- (1) acquire additional property at Little McGregor Lake to improve public access to the site;
- (2) consider accessibility for the handicapped in the future;
- (3) provide a vault toilet; and
- (4) improve road access to the site.

In keeping with the management plan, 80 acres was acquired from Plum Creek Timber in 1996 to provide an adequate area for public use (Appendix B, western  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). After this acquisition, alternative access roads were considered, but were not possible due to site distances on the highway. Therefore, FWP entered negotiations with an adjacent landowner to widen the existing easement. The adjacent landowner has committed this easement to provide improved public access to Little McGregor Lake.



*Boat ramp at Little McGregor Lake. Photo by Worthington.*

Little McGregor Lake has always been a very popular spot for trout fishing by the area fishermen both during the summer and winter months. An unimproved boat access ramp has been the major access point to the lake for boat users. In the Statewide Boater Survey of 1999, it was mentioned that access to the lake and the boat ramp needed improvement.

According to statewide angler surveys for 1999, 471 angler days were spent on this lake for both summer and winter time periods. An illegal plant of perch and bass occurred approximately 10 years ago, causing a reduction in angler fishing use. In 1998, a chemical rehabilitation occurred, and the lake was planted to rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout. Angling use has increased since then and continues to increase annually.

Access is also available to the east side of the lake. Day use only is permitted, with overnight camping on the west side. Improvements are planned only on the west side of the lake and include the following (Appendix D 1 & 2):

- (1) Acquisition through donation by the landowner of additional land on the west side of the existing right-of-way to increase the width of the right-of-way and permit a more suitable access road for present and future needs.
- (2) Reconstruction of a single-lane access road, with pullouts, to the recreational site. This will include relocating the road away from the lakeshore to meet Best Management Practices.
- (3) Construction of a parking area within the site, and graveling the boat ramp, which should reduce erosion and siltation flowing into the lake. As the lake is designated as a no-wake lake, improvement to the boat ramp will not accommodate larger boats.
- (4) Provide a porta-potty during the summer months. Accommodations for use by the handicapped will not be provided at this time, as the level of development is primitive to fit current use patterns.

Highway 2 was recently reconstructed in the Thompson Chain of Lakes (TCL) area to provide for a safer travel experience for those recreationists visiting the lakes, as well as cross country travelers using the highway.

**10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#
-------------	--------	--------------

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
FWP	25%/\$13,100
Wallap Breaux	75%/\$39,300
Total	\$52,400



(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name                      Type of Responsibility

**11. List of Agencies Consulted during Preparation of the EA:**

Fish, Wildlife & Parks FWP, Region 1  
Flathead Regional Development Office  
Natural Resource Conservation Service, Flathead County  
Montana State Historical Office, SHPO  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

### **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	1b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**1b.** There will be some disruption and displacement of the soil during the grading of the site; some compaction will occur. Roads and parking areas will be graveled, reducing on-site productivity for grasses and shrubs. Those areas not impacted by the over-covering will be seeded to native grasses to retain their natural condition as much as possible. The over-covering material will help reduce erosion and siltation.

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

2. <u>AIR</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X		Yes	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Yes	2b - See 2a
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
♦e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**2a.** Air pollutants and objectionable odors will be emitted into the air during the construction period with the use of construction equipment, only when the equipment is running. It may be objectionable within a short distance from the construction area. The air quality will return to its normal, clean quality after the construction is complete.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X		No	3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		No	3b - See 3a
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
◆◆l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
◆m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**3a,b.** The conversion of the access road and parking area from soil to gravel may result in a slight increase in runoff due to the hardened surface of the gravel, but should lessen the amount of fines running into the lake. Care will be taken in design and construction to follow Best Management Practices to reduce this problem as much as possible. The eroded and bare roadways will be seeded to native grasses and barricaded against further automobile traffic.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated. 8
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e
♦♦f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**4e.** Ground disturbance will invite noxious weeds. This site will be incorporated into the TCL area weed management plan.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated. 9
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

► <u>5. FISH/WILDLIFE</u>	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X		Yes	5g
♦♦h. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
♦i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5g. Little McGregor Lake has the foraging habitat and may possibly have the potential nesting habitat for common loons, particularly after FWP's rehabilitation and planting of trout in 1998-1999. Loons have been observed using the lake in years past, but observations have decreased in the past several years. None have been observed nesting since 1986. The restored fishery, plus the road access and site improvements planned for the area, could increase recreation, fishing, and boating. This could have an adverse effect on loons, and due to the size of the lake, could eliminate any possibility for any nesting opportunities. Retaining the site in its present condition does not guarantee that loons will return and nest.

In event that loons are again observed nesting on the lake in the spring, efforts will be made to monitor nesting behavior. If nesting occurs, signs will be posted at the boat ramp. Additionally, floating signs will be placed around the nest site, as needed, to further reduce human disturbance and potential nest abandonment. Because McGregor Lake is already designated a "no-wake" lake, no changes in boating regulations would be proposed. FWP would provide on-site education during the spring should nesting take place on this lake.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 10 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**6a.** There will be some noise increases from construction equipment during the reconstruction of the site and due to increased use of small boats. Distance from existing dwellings will reduce the impact of the noise to some degree. Use of the site is not expected to produce excessive noise levels to disturb local residents located on highway ¼ mile to the south.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

7. <u>LAND USE</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the impact is unknown or cannot be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
♦d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 12 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
► e. Define projected revenue sources						10e
► f. Define projected maintenance costs.						10f
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10e. Funding for the maintenance of the site comes from the sale of fishing licenses. No fees are charged at the site at this time.

10f. Estimated annual cost to operate the site is \$500.



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				12d
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12d. In a Cultural Resources Inventory Report by Tammy Howser and Jennifer Spencer, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana, December 15, 1994, no historical or cultural resources were found on this site. (See Appendix E.)

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 14 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
♦f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
♦♦g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 15 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action, whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider; and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

Alternative No. 1: No Action. No improvements will be provided.

Alternative No. 2: Develop, as proposed, the reconstruction and upgrading as shown in the master plan (Appendix C). This would include:

- (1) Acquisition through donation by the landowner of additional land on the west side of the existing right-of-way to increase the width of the right-of-way and permit a more suitable access road for present and future needs.
- (2) Reconstruction of a single-lane access road, with pullouts, to the recreational site. This will include relocating the road away from the lakeshore to meet Best Management Practices.
- (3) Construction of a parking area within the site, and graveling the boat ramp, which should reduce erosion and siltation flowing into the lake. As the lake is designated as a no-wake lake, improvement to the boat ramp will not accommodate larger boats.
- (4) Provide a porta-potty during the summer months. Accommodations for use by the handicapped will not be provided at this time, as the level of development is primitive to fit current use patterns.

Alternative No. 2 is the preferred alternative.

**3. Evaluation and listing of mitigations, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

FWP will work with the property owner west of the present legal right-of-way (ROW) to provide an adequate ROW width to insure present and future road width needed for access improvement.

**4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**

An EIS is not required as there are no significant environmental impacts for any alternatives. Social concerns from recreationists and adjacent landowners can best be handled through the EA process.

**5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any; and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

A Management Plan and EA were completed after an extended public comment period in 1993. A site-specific EA was improved in 1996 for the Thompson Chain of Lakes area. This plan will be presented to the TCL oversight committee. If an additional public meeting is required after distribution of this EA, one will be scheduled.



**6. Duration of comment period if any:**

Thirty days – March 21 through April 20, 2001.

**7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:**

Wayne B. Worthington, Consultant  
Landscape Architect, ASLA  
365 Summit Ridge Drive  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-2916  
E-mail: [wworth@digisys.net](mailto:wworth@digisys.net)

### **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

**1b.** There will be some disruption and displacement of the soil during the grading of the site. Some compaction will occur. Roads and parking areas will be graveled, reducing on-site productivity for grasses and shrubs. Those areas not impacted by the over-covering will be seeded to native grasses to retain their natural condition as much as possible. The over-covering material will help reduce erosion and siltation.

**2a.** Air pollutants and objectionable odors will be emitted into the air during the construction period with the use of construction equipment, only when the equipment is running. It may be objectionable within a short distance from the construction area. The air quality will return to its normal clean quality after the construction is complete.

**3a,b.** The conversion of the access road and parking area from soil to gravel may result in a slight increase in runoff due to the hardened surface of the gravel, but should lessen the amount of fines running into the lake. Care will be taken in design and construction to follow Best Management Practices to reduce this problem as much as possible. The eroded and bare roadways will be seeded to native grasses and barricaded against further automobile traffic.

**4e.** Ground disturbance will invite noxious weeds. This site will be incorporated into the TCL area weed management plan.

**5g.** Little McGregor Lake has the foraging habitat and may possibly have the potential nesting habitat for common loons, particularly after FWP's rehabilitation and planting of trout in 1998-1999. Loons have been observed using the lake in years past, but observations have decreased in the past several years. None have been observed nesting since 1986. The restored fishery, plus the road access and site improvements planned for the area, could increase recreation, fishing, and boating. This could have an adverse effect on loons, and due to the size of the lake, could eliminate any possibility for any nesting opportunities. Retaining the site in its present condition does not guarantee that loons will return and nest.

In event that loons are again observed nesting on the lake in the spring, efforts will be made to monitor nesting behavior. If nesting occurs, signs will be posted at the boat ramp. Additionally, floating signs will be

placed around the nest site, as needed, to further reduce human disturbance and potential nest abandonment. Because McGregor Lake is already designated a "no-wake" lake, no changes in boating regulations would be proposed. FWP would provide on-site education during the spring should nesting take place on this lake.

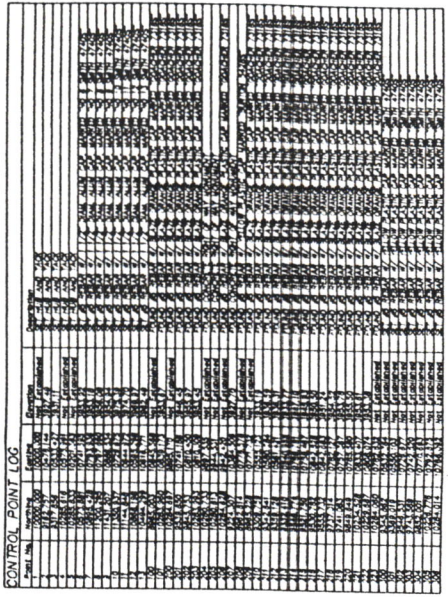
**6a.** There will be some noise increases from construction equipment during the reconstruction of the site and due to increased use of small boats. Distance from existing dwellings will reduce the impact of the noise to some degree. Use of the site is not expected to produce excessive noise levels to disturb local residents located on highway 1/4 mile to the south.

**10e.** Funding for the maintenance of the site comes from the sale of fishing licenses. No fees are charged at the site at this time.


**10f.** Estimated annual cost to operate the site is \$500.

**12d.** In a Cultural Resources Inventory Report by Tammy Howser and Jennifer Spencer, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana, December 15, 1994, no historical or cultural resources were found on this site. (See Appendix E)



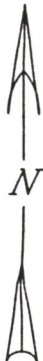


**LITTLE MCGREGOR LAKE ENTRANCE  
AND FISHING ACCESS SITE**

Surveying and mapping provided  
  
**SMITH SURVEYING  
 & CONSULTING**  
 131 South Main Street, Suite 1  
 Kalispell, Montana 59901  
 (406) 257-4323



1538.39' REC.



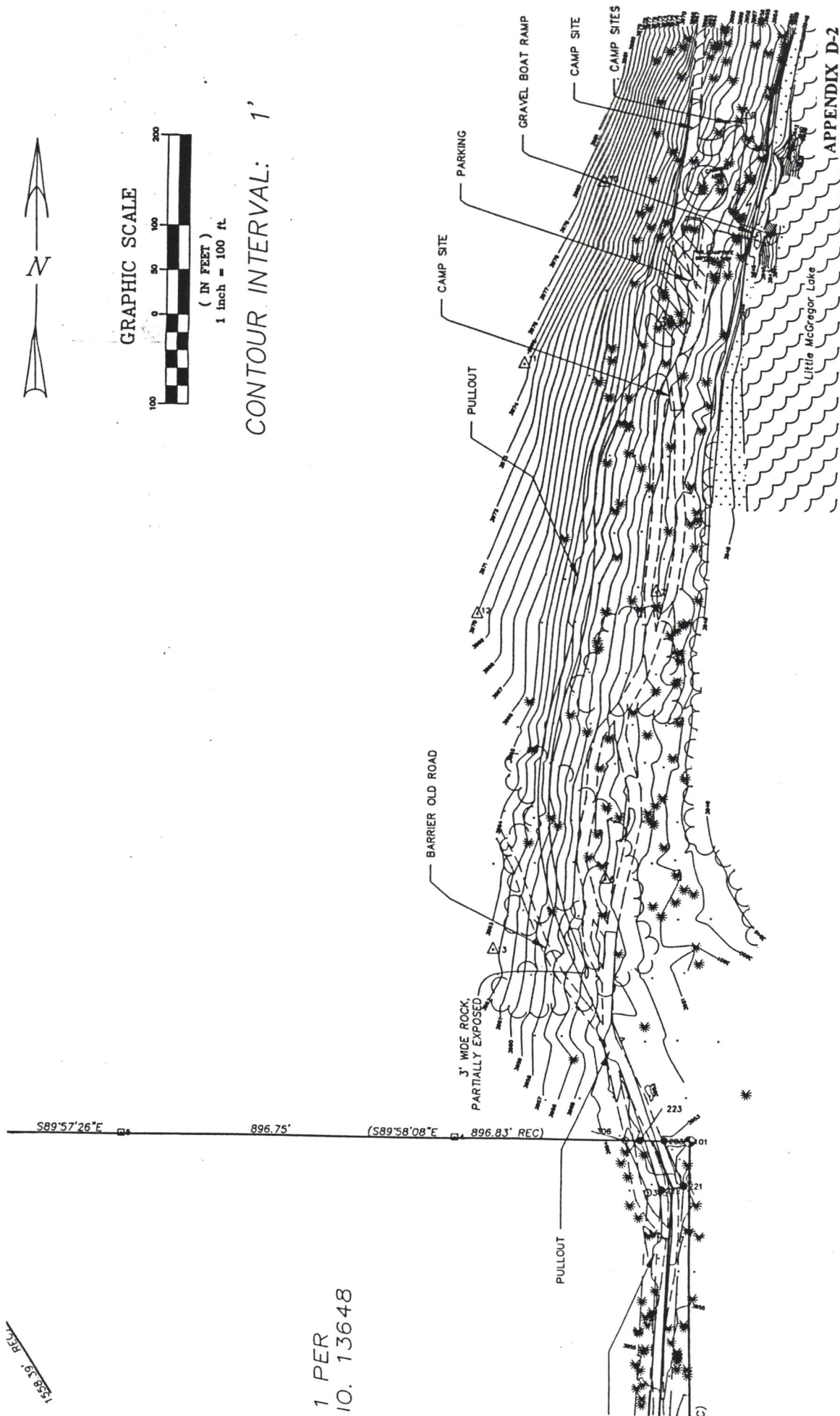
GRAPHIC SCALE



( IN FEET )  
1 inch = 100 ft

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 1'

1 PER  
10. 13648



APPENDIX D-2

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORT**

## **THOMPSON CHAIN OF LAKES SURVEY**

**By**

**Tammy Howser, Principle Investigator  
Jennifer Spencer, Principle Investigator**

**Prepared for  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620**

**15 December 1994**

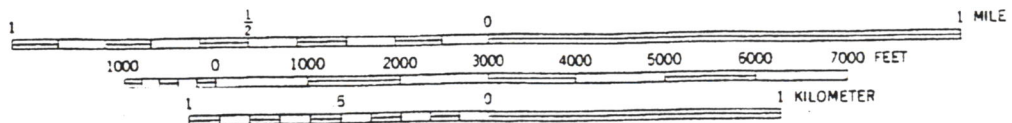
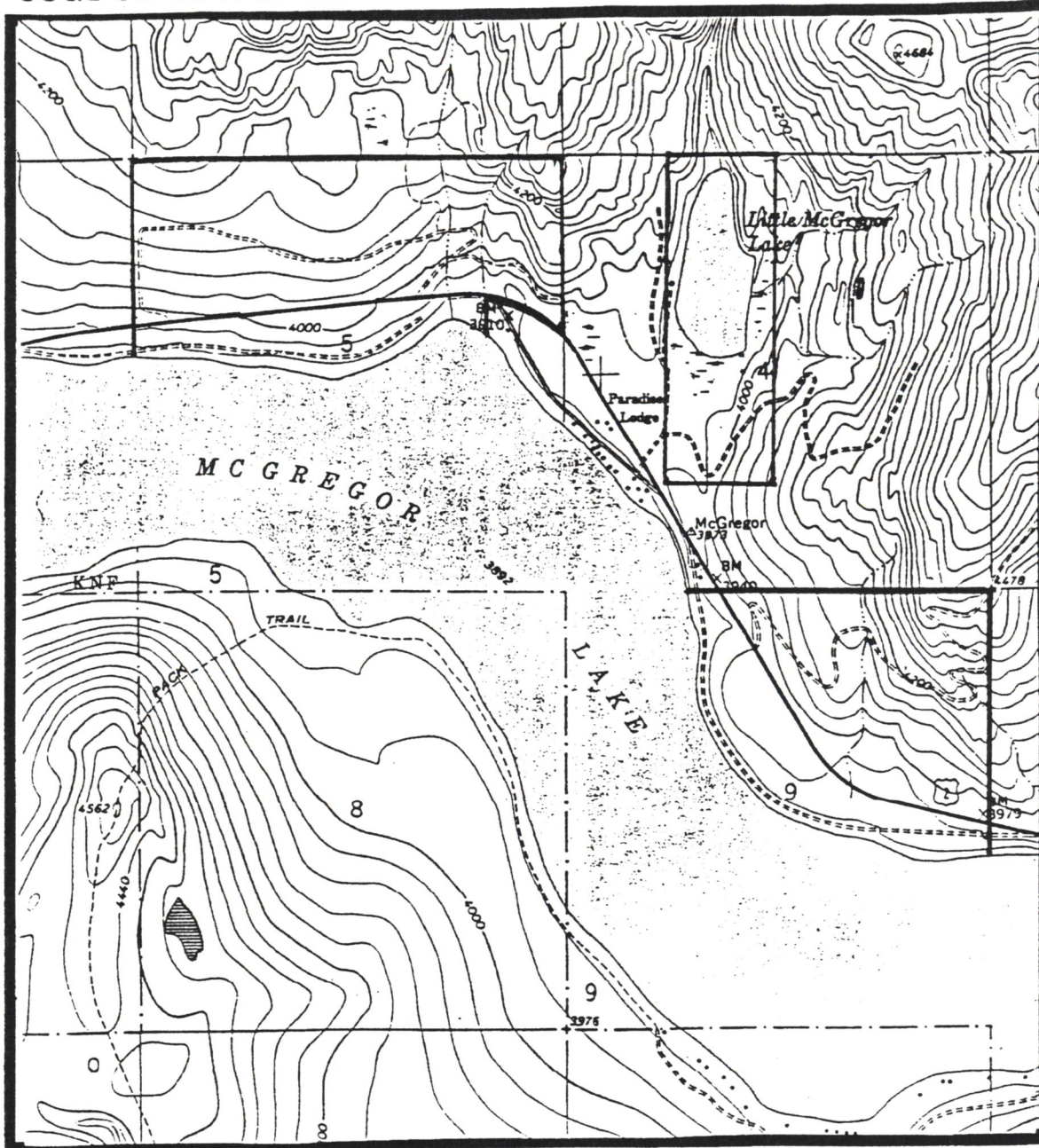
**Thomas A. Foor, Project Director  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Montana  
Missoula, Montana 59812**

**APPENDIX E**

---

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES

MCGREGOR PEAK, MONT QUAD



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

Figure 2: Project Area

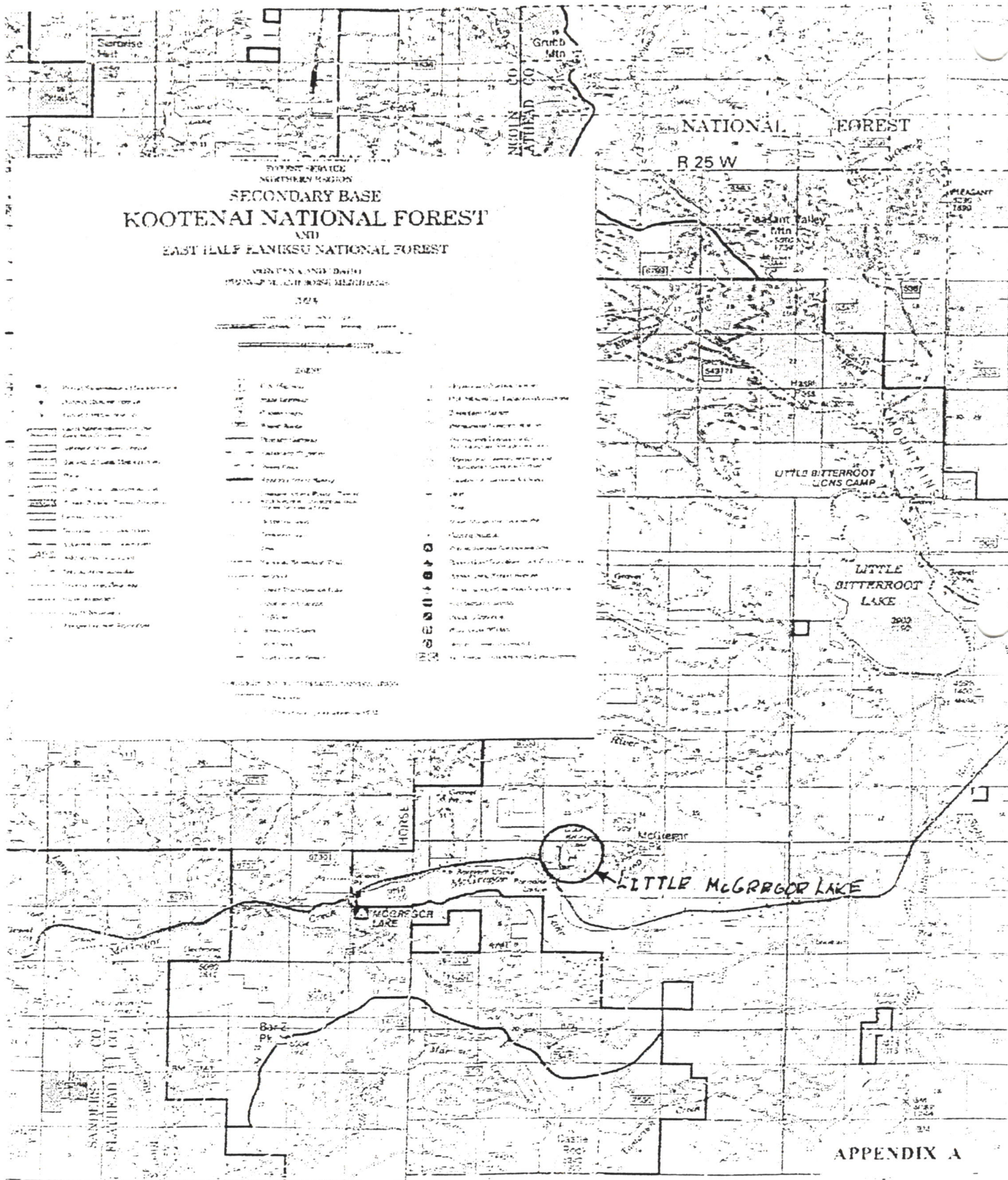
APPENDIX E



**Appendix**

**for**

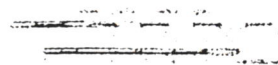
**LITTLE MCGREGOR LAKE  
Draft EA**



# SECONDARY BASE KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST AND EAST HALF FLANKUS NATIONAL FOREST

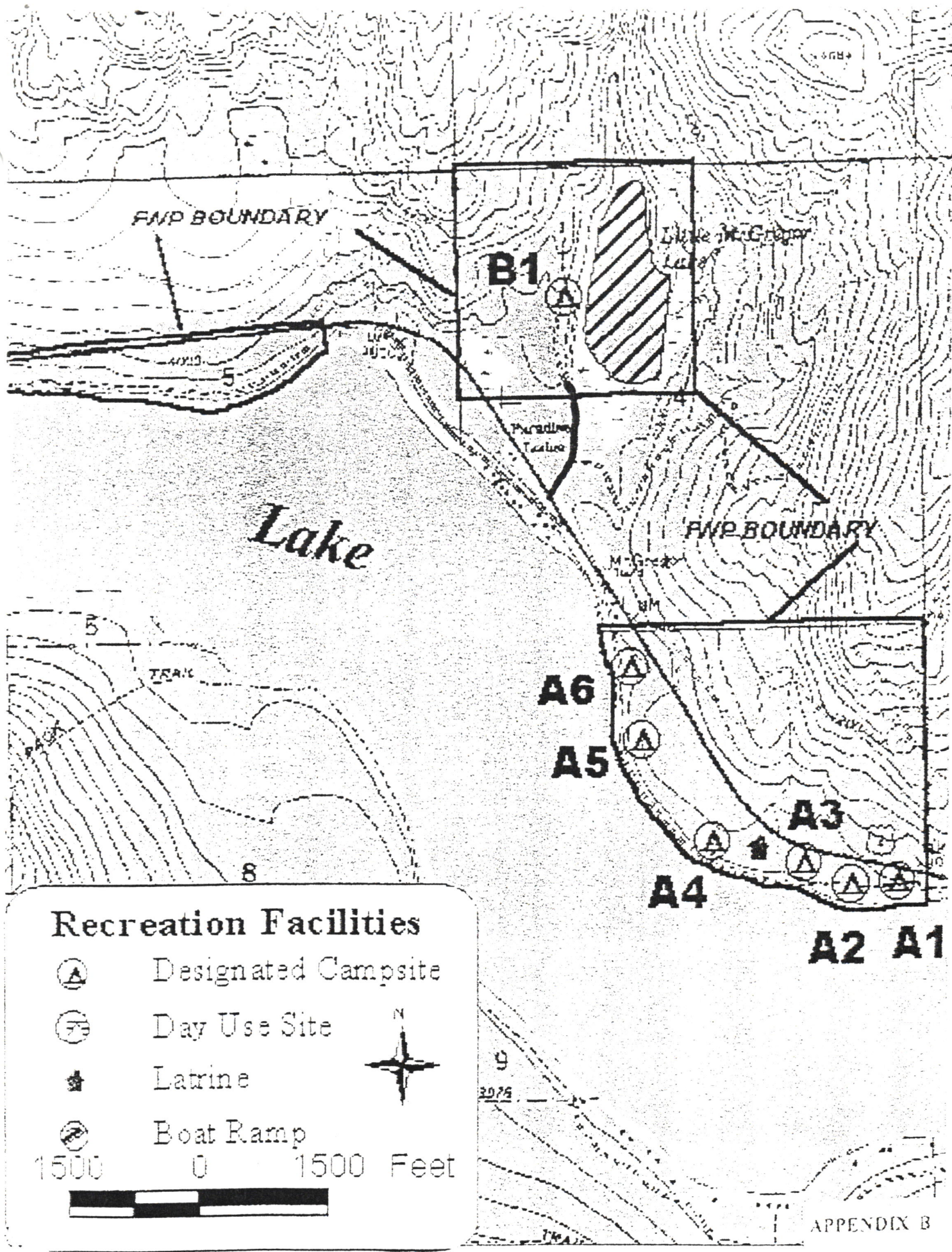
VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL  
MEASUREMENTS IN FEET

1924



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contour lines showing elevation</li> <li>2. Section lines showing land parcels</li> <li>3. Township and Range lines</li> <li>4. Section numbers</li> <li>5. Township and Range numbers</li> <li>6. Township and Range letters</li> <li>7. Township and Range numbers and letters</li> <li>8. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers</li> <li>9. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers</li> <li>10. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>11. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>12. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>13. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>14. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>15. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>16. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>17. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>18. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>19. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>20. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contour lines showing elevation</li> <li>2. Section lines showing land parcels</li> <li>3. Township and Range lines</li> <li>4. Section numbers</li> <li>5. Township and Range numbers</li> <li>6. Township and Range letters</li> <li>7. Township and Range numbers and letters</li> <li>8. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers</li> <li>9. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers</li> <li>10. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>11. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>12. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>13. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>14. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>15. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>16. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>17. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>18. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>19. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> <li>20. Township and Range numbers and letters and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers and numbers</li> </ul> |
|---|---|







Lake Name Site #	Number of Camper Units	Decision
5	1	Eliminate site to reduce erosion due to vehicles traveling on a steep road in close proximity to lakeshore.
6	2	Eliminate site to reduce erosion due to vehicles traveling on a steep road in close proximity to lakeshore.
8	2	
Little McGregor		
46	3	Acquire public access, and improve access to site. Provide vault toilet* Consider handicapped accessibility in the future.
66	1	Close site to avoid surface water runoff into the lake. soil compaction, and vegetation removal.
67	2	Close site to avoid surface water runoff into the lake. soil compaction, and vegetation removal.
Lower Thompson		
38	4	Redesign 38, 38A and 38B into one site. Provide vault toilet*. Construct boat ramp when use requires this action. Close existing boat ramp to reduce surface runoff into the lake.
38A	3	Combine with site 38.
38B	1	Combine with site 38. Provide vault toilet*. Close road to reduce erosion. Make site walk in or boat in via a foot bridge from site 38.
39	2	Close boat ramp to reduce erosion due to steep gradient. Provide stock facilities in future if need exists.
40	2	Provide vault toilet*.
40A	1	Provide vault toilet*.